WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for determining and enforcing security policy in a

2 communication session for a group of participants, the method comprising:

3   providing group and local policies wherein each local policy states

4 a set of local requirements for the session for a participant and the group policy

5 represents a set of conditional, security-relevant requirements to support the session;

6   generating a policy instance based on the group and local policies

7 wherein the policy instance defines a configuration of security-related services used

8 to implement the session and rules used for authorization and access control of

9 participants to the session;

10   analyzing the policy instance with respect to a set of correctness

11 principles;

12   distributing the policy instance to the participants; and

13   enforcing the security policy based on the rules throughout the

14 session.

1   2.   The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of

2 distributing includes the steps of authorizing a potential participant to participate in

3 the session based on the rules and determining whether the potential participant has

4 a right to view the security policy.

1   3.   The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of

2 analyzing verifies that the policy instance adheres to a set of principles defining legal

3 construction and composition of the security policy.

1   4.   The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of

2 generating includes the step of reconciling the group and local policies to obtain the

3 policy instance which is substantially compliant with each of the local policies and

4 wherein the policy instance identifies relevant requirements of the session and how

5 the relevant requirements are mapped into the configuration.

1   5.   The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising verifying

2   that the policy instance complies with the set of local requirements stated in the local

3   policies.

1   6.   The method as claimed in claim 5 further comprising

2   identifying parts of a local policy that are not compliant with the policy instance and

3   determining modifications required to make the local policy compliant with the

4   policy instance.

1   7.   The method as claimed in claim 5 further comprising

2   preventing a potential participant from participating in the session if the policy

3   instance does not comply with the set of local requirements of the potential

4   participant.

1   8.   The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of

2   enforcing includes the steps of creating and processing events.

1   9.   The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of

2   enforcing includes delivering the events to security services via a real or software-

3   emulated broadcast bus.

1   10.   The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of creating

2   events includes the step of translating application requests into the events.

1   11.   The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of

2   enforcing further includes the steps of creating and processing timers and messages.

1   12.   The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the set of local

2   requirements specifies provisioning and access control policies.

1   13.   A system for determining and enforcing security policy in a

2   communication session for a group of participants based on group and local policies

3   wherein each local policy states a set of local requirements for the session for a

4 participant and the group policy represents a set of conditional, security-relevant

5 requirements to support the session, the system comprising:

6   means for generating a policy instance based on the group and local

7 policies wherein the policy instance defines a configuration of security-related

8 services used to implement the session and rules used for authorization and access

9 control of participants to the session;

10   means for analyzing the policy instance with respect to a set of

11 correctness principles;

12   means for distributing the policy instance to the participants; and

13   means for enforcing the security policy based on the rules throughout

14 the session.

1 14. The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the means for

2 distributing includes means for authorizing a potential participant to participate in

3 the session based on the rules and determining whether the potential participant has

4 a right to view the security policy.

1 15. The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the means for

2 analyzing verifies that the policy instance adheres to a set of principles defining legal

3 construction and composition of the security policy.

1 16. The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the means for

2 generating includes means for reconciling the group and local policies to obtain the

3 policy instance which is substantially compliant with each of the local policies and

4 wherein the policy instance identifies relevant requirements of the session and how

5 the relevant requirements are mapped into the configuration.

1 17. The system as claimed in claim 13 further comprising means

2 for verifying that the policy instance complies with the set of local requirements

3 stated in the local policies.

1 18. The system as claimed in claim 17 further comprising means

2 for identifying parts of a local policy that are not compliant with the policy instance

3   and determining modifications required to make the local policy compliant with the

4   policy instance.

1   19.   The system as claimed in claim 17 further comprising means

2   for preventing a potential participant from participating in the session if the policy

3   instance does not comply with the set of local requirements of the potential

4   participant.

1   20.   The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the means for

2   enforcing includes means for creating and processing events.

1   21.   The system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the means for

2   enforcing includes a real or software-emulated broadcast bus to deliver the events

3   to security services.

1   22.   The system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the means for

2   creating events includes means for translating application requests into the events.

1   23.   The system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the means for

2   enforcing further includes means for creating and processing timers and messages.

1   24.   The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the set of local

2   requirements specifies provisioning and access control policies.